

triumphant contempt; and thus gave the first proof of possessing that invincible firmness with which they afterwards prosecuted their design, till they attained a success, the destructive process and many of the results of which humanity has ever deplored.

Milton's Abdiel is a noble illustration of the courage that rises invincible above the derision not only of the multitude, but of the proud and elevated.*

But there may be situations where decision of character will be brought to trial against evils of a darker aspect than disapprobation or contempt. There maybe the threatening of serious sufferings; and very often, to dare as far as conscience or a great cause required, has been to dare to die. In almost all plans of great enterprise, a man must systematically dismiss, at the entrance, every wish to stipulate with his destiny for safety. He voluntarily treads within the precincts of danger; and though it be possible he may escape, he ought to be prepared with the fortitude of a self-devoted victim. This is the inevitable condition on which heroes, travellers or missionaries, among savage nations, and reformers on a grand scale, must commence their career. Either they must allay their fire of enterprise, or abide the liability to be exploded by it from the world. . The last decisive energy of a rational courage, which confides in the Supreme Power, is very sublime. It makes a man who intrepidly dares everything that can oppose or attack him within the whole sphere of mortality; who will still press toward his object while death is impending over him ; who would retain his purpose unshaken amidst the ruins of the world.

It was in the true elevation of this character that Luther, when cited to appear at the Diet of Worms, under a very

* Abdiel is represented in Milton's "Paradise Lost" as one of the seraphim who, when Satan tried to stir up a revolt among the angels subordinate to his authority, alone and boldly withstood his traitorous designs.

*' So spake the seraph Abdiel, faithful
found Among the faithless ; faithful
only he ; Among innumerable false,
unmoved, Unshaken, unseduced,
unterrified, His loyalty he kept, his
love, his zeal."